

FEATURED NEWS



NEIL GRASSO/SPECTRUM

IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE!

Game of Drones a fundraiser for Notre Dame High School.



SACRED HEART ATHLETICS

MY LITTLE PONY

The equestrian team is getting ready for Nationals.

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@Mary_Rosilia

"SACRED HEART: Where housing, parking, and the spring concert aren't guaranteed."

@danilapierre

"No wonder why Khloe Kardashian dumped French Montana."

@DianaLento

"You can tell a lot about a person by which team they were on when Pokemon Go was popular."

UPCOMING EVENTS

3-28 Tunnel of Oppression
U.C. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

4-1 Happy Easter!

4-4 Judy Altmann: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey
U.C. 2 p.m.

FAKE NEWS Or Not?

Students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas Now Required to Wear Clear Backpacks

"When students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High return to school after spring break, they will be required to carry their belongings in clear plastic backpacks, and students and staff will have to wear identification badges at all times on campus.

The new rules are among security measures outlined by Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie in a letter sent Wednesday to students and parents. Last month, 17 people were killed at the Parkland, Fla., school in a mass shooting, allegedly perpetrated by a former student."

Source: The Washington Post

"Tweets of the Week" are taken from a public forum on Twitter. Tweets are opinions of the individual and do not represent the opinions of Sacred Heart University or The Spectrum Newspaper. If you want to see your Tweet in the newspaper, use the hashtag #ShuSpectrum and you may be featured!

Official SHU Tartan Announced



BY BRENDAN CAPUANO
Asst. News Editor

What is red, white and grey with stripes all over? It is Sacred Heart University's official tartan which was publicly announced March 13, 2018 in a press release and video unveiling the pattern.

According to the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh Scotland, tartan is "a design which is capable of being woven consisting of two or more alternating coloured stripes which combine vertically and horizontally to form a repeated chequered pattern." These patterns are referred to as a "sett" of tartan.

The reason for designing the tartan was because of the addition of two bagpipers, to the Sacred Heart University Band, who needed a pattern for their kilts.

Keith Johnston, Director of Bands, last year was approached by two prospective students who played the bagpipes, and saw their unique instrument as a way to grow the band.

Johnston now has the bagpipers existing as their own entity under the Sacred Heart band, but hopes to bring them into larger marching band soon.

"Our instructor is doing a 'bagpipes for beginners' class that is open to everyone, students faculty staff, anyone. We will do the exact same thing next year, starting in the fall" said Johnston.

Johnston anticipates the program to grow to include five to ten bagpipers within the next year.

The Sacred Heart University Tartan, was registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans on Oct. 12, 2017, under reference number 11939. The announcement of the tartan was held until the bagpipers were fully outfitted in full regalia, including kilts.

"Believe it or not, a lot of Universities have a secondary branded tartan," said Deb Chute, Associate Director of Creative Services, who designed the pattern. Quinnipiac University has their own officially registered tartan as well.

"I am Irish, I am a golfer, and I love tartan. Out of all the projects I've worked on here, I've enjoyed this one the most because it came from concept to the actual production of the tartan. Seeing the guys in their actual kilts was a really fun project," she said.

Chute said the project came very organically out of the bagpiper's addition to the band, not as a "marketing ploy to get attention." The project also came with its own challenges.

"There are not any manufacturers of tartan fabric domestically, there are two and they are both in Scotland," said Chute.

These manufacturers design for everyone from Universities to Ralph Lauren. She said that because of the few manufacturers of authentic tartan wool, it took months.

Tartan's also have a specific unique history written for them, Sean Kaschak, Multimedia Manager for Sacred Heart, assisted in writing the tartan's history.

"The Sacred Heart University tartan reflects the nature of our founding. Central to each sett, as it is to the University, is a cross.

The cross is comprised of sets of three lines representing the Holy Trinity with each of the three lines woven from six threads, an homage to 1963, the year of our founding."

The history continues, explaining the usage of the color red to signify the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"The common thread that connects all we do and defines who we are as an institution," said the history. "The Sacred Heart University tartan displays diversity and complexity working in unison, which is the very fabric of the University."

When asked if University Marketing and Communications intended to include so many puns writing the tartan's history and background Kaschak said, "if that's the story you want to weave, I won't deny it."

"Historically, tartan was the everyday wear of Highlanders, spun, dyed, woven and fashioned locally," according to the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Chute said that there is potential for the tartan to be used by sports teams and for design elements potentially at the Sacred Heart Campus in Dingle, Ireland.

The Sacred Heart Tartan is already being sported by the band's bagpipers, but has also been incorporated into apparel and merchandise available for purchase in the University Bookstore. There is also a coupon code "SH50" for 50% off the Sacred Heart Tartan for tartan products on Collegiate Tartan Apparel's website.

SHU Mission and Vision Statement Gets an Update

BY EMILY HELLDORFER
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University is in the process of updating its Mission and Vision Statements for the first time since 1991.

The process took place over several meetings that were held in the University Commons for students, faculty and staff.

The meetings were led by Father Anthony Ciorra, University Vice President of Mission and Catholic Identity, and Larry Carroll, Executive Director of Pastoral Services and Planning.

The meetings served as an open forum discussion of Sacred Heart's mission and the students' vision for the future.

"Rolling this out to the Sacred Heart community enables us to have an increased awareness of what our mission is, and what values we hold, and to hopefully foster discussion," said Carroll.

Father Ciorra worked with a committee to write and update the mission statement and core values of the university.

"It was a year-and-a-half to two-year process," said Ciorra. "While the mission statement stays consistent, our vision for the future is always changing."

One notable change to the statement is its reduction in length. "The committee thought the old statement was too long," Ciorra explained.

What used to be several pages now fits neatly on a two-page pamphlet.

The new mission and vision statement was approved by the committee on Dec. 5, 2017.

The mission statement is as follows: "Sacred Heart University, rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and the liberal arts, embraces a vision for social justice and educates students in mind, body and spirit to prepare them personally and professionally to make a difference in the global community."

The vision statement reads, "Sacred Heart University aspires to achieve prominence through innovative teaching and learning while cultivating a campus community that is recognized as caring and creative."

"Now it's easier to navigate for the average person—not that the substance has changed a lot—but it's consolidated," said Carroll.

"The way it is written is clear, concise and helpful for anyone who really wants to understand it. As opposed to reading pages of single-spaced, long documents, I think that the new format helps make it more user-friendly."

Reflection on the mission and vision statements with the student body took place on March 22.

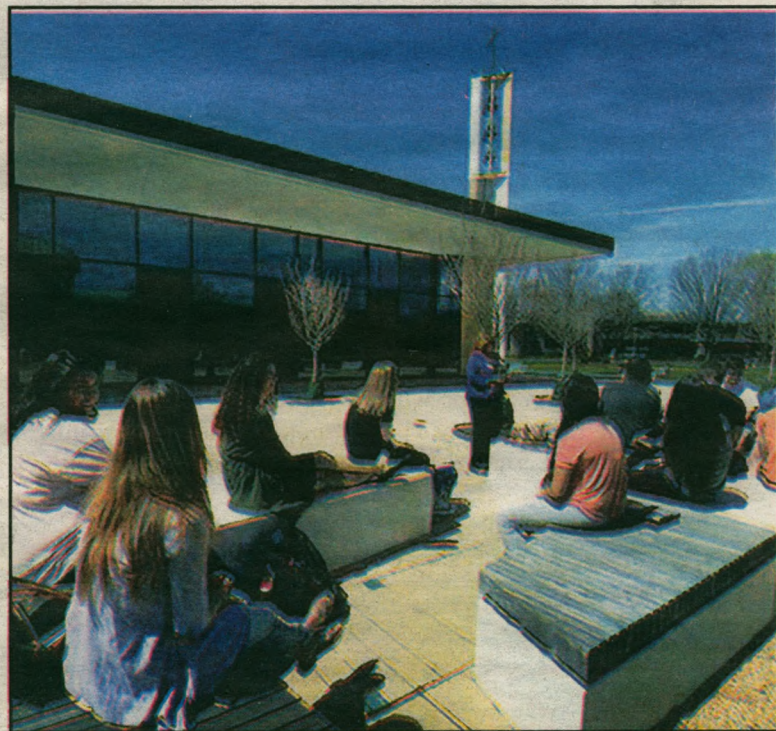
"I always knew Sacred Heart was a special place," said sophomore Erika Borrás. "Just seeing this mission statement and how it connects so much to my personal values makes me feel confident I went to the right school."

Father Ciorra explained that the statement should be used as a guideline for members of Sacred Heart to grow both as individuals and as a community.

Ciorra also noted the importance of the mission and vision of Sacred Heart as the student body grows, saying, "The concern is we don't want to lose the mission as we're expanding."

"The reason why we're even in existence is for the students," said Carroll. "That's why I think it's crucial that they have an understanding of what the mission is of the university they're a part of."

"We would hope that all of us, students, faculty, and staff, embrace the values so what goes on here day to day really reflects them."



SACRED HEART WEBSITE

SACRED HEART UPDATED THEIR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS THROUGH A COMMITTEE AND A SERIES OF MEETINGS OPEN TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF.

News

Boko Haram Releases 104 Kidnapped Nigerian Girls

BY ERIC CASSIDY
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, March 21 at 2 a.m., the extremist organization Boko Haram returned 104 kidnapped Nigerian school girls to their families.

The terror cell had previously taken a total of 110 young women from the town of Dapchi, Nigeria last month.

Some of the girls said they were treated decently in the camps, and were rewarded when they read the Quran. The girls were taken from their boarding school following issues with religious and educational persecution for the past 8 years.

"Don't ever put your daughters in school again," was the message the girls were released with.

Several of the girls interviewed by The Associated Press said they had been traveling for days before the convoy of vehicles arrived in the center of the town of Dapchi.

Residents who had fled upon hearing that Boko Haram was heading their way watched from hiding as dozens of girls descended from the vehicles apparently unharmed.

"We were freed because we are Muslim girls and they didn't want us to suffer. That is why they released us," said Khadija Grema, one of the freed girls who said a Christian classmate remained captive.

The sister of one of the girls fainted Wednesday upon hearing that her sibling was not among those freed.

The girls were originally abducted on Feb. 19 and the whereabouts of the other girls are still being investigated.

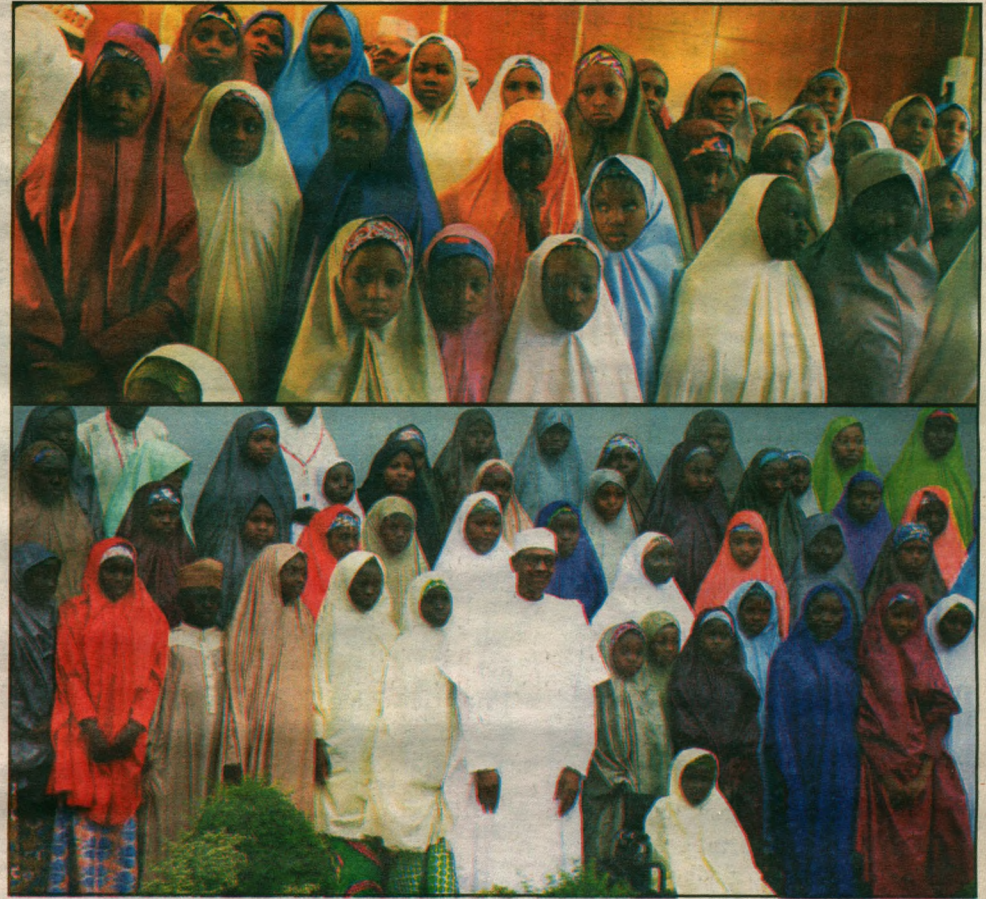
Their story is similar to that of the 276 girls taken from the town of Chibok, Nigeria in April 2014.

To this day, nearly four years later, close to 100 of the girls are still reported missing.

"I think it is awful that in this day and age there are still terrorist organizations that violently discourage the idea of women learning," said senior Shawn Lee. "This also hurts the image of the Islamic faith, which will only further harm relations between the West and the Middle East."

The returned girls have been transported to a nearby hospital where they are being treated.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



104 GIRLS KIDNAPPED BY BOKO HARAM WERE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES AND MET WITH THE NIGERIAN PRESIDENT ON MAR. 23. (BOTTOM)

AP EXCHANGE

Students Support Relay for Life with "Strike Out Cancer"

BY ANGELINA DINOTA
Staff Reporter

On March 28, students gathered in the University Commons for Strike Out Cancer, a fundraising event for the Sacred Heart chapter of Relay for Life.

"Strike Out Cancer is an event where students get to bowl for a half hour with their friends," said Katherine Seckler, senior and Relay for Life president.

"We have an outside company coming in that brings the bowling lanes. Participants signed up during table times."

Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society.

According to the organization's website, "team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. Each event is 6-24 hours in length, and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps."

Seckler and co-president Erica Heins oversee Relay for Life's five committees: survivorship, entertainment and activities, community outreach, marketing and advertising and mission. Both have been members of the club since their freshman year.

"I attended one of the meetings because I was looking to get more involved on campus and it was a more than worthy cause," said Heins. "After a year of helping out as a general member, I was asked to take on the role of co-president."

"Back home I was part of an overnight event with Relay for Life," said junior Trevor O'Brien. "Considering that was 10 years ago, it is really incredible to see how much this organization has evolved, both in its fundraising and its ability to raise awareness."

At Strike Out for Cancer, groups of three to five students paid \$15 for their turn on the lanes.

"It's nice that this is just such an easy and enjoyable way to raise money for such a great cause," said sophomore Anthony Smith. "Everyone knows someone that has been affected by cancer."

"I love that Relay comes up with unique ways to fundraise for such an amazing cause," said sophomore Erin Redersheid. "For someone that has a family member that has been affected by cancer, it is amazing to see the SHU community caring about such a prominent cause."

With 12.7 million people around the world diagnosed with cancer each year, many students feel personally connected with the cause.

"This matters because every single person has been affected by cancer in some way,

shape or form," said Seckler. "The money we raise does make a difference and I do all this fundraising because I want to leave this world one day knowing there is a cure to cancer and I had some way of helping that happen."

"Relay for Life is a fundraiser that is put on once a year to raise money for people with cancer, as well as honoring those who lost their battle with cancer," said Heins.

"It is for all of those in our lives who were touched by cancer, and everyone from the Sacred Heart community is more than welcome to attend. There is music, dancing, performances and games."

"The theme is decades this year. The event is a lot of fun because we have different games, raffle prizes and ceremonies to honor those who have won and lost their battles with cancer," said Seckler.

Sacred Heart's Relay for Life event will take place on April 21 in the William H. Pitt Center.



SACRED HEART'S CHAPTER OF RELAY FOR LIFE HELD STRIKE OUT CANCER AS A FUNDRAISING EVENT. THE RELAY FOR LIFE WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 21 IN THE PITT CENTER.

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Perspectives

Springing into Spring

SHE SAID

EVE..



Spring is a very lovely time of year. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the flowers are blooming. Everyone is coming out of hibernation in the dorms and hitting up the quad to study outside and play Frisbee. Campus actually looks the way it did in the classic college brochure! Excitement is in the air, and the weather affirms it.

Well... at least this is supposed to be the case.

In reality, the spring we experience every year here in New England is not the ideal version that we all expect. While winter is supposed to pretty much be over by the end of February or beginning of March, here in Connecticut we get our biggest snowstorms at the end of March.

Winter really loves to overstay its visit around here.

Each and every year, the cold feels nearly impossible to shake, and winter ends up being our longest season.

And don't try to tell me that here in the northeast we have the four seasons – cause I don't buy that nonsense. Connecticut knows only two seasons: winter and August. That's it.

The weather never seems to be mild; it always has to be either one extreme or the other.

Once winter finally ends, the weather does not know what it's doing or who it wants to be. And we – as the innocent victims of weather's wrath – are stuck in a strange place of not knowing what to expect.

And worse: not knowing what to wear.

Slowly and hopefully soon, we will be approaching the point where the weather is "warm." And the problem then comes of figuring out how to

dress.

Dead-of-winter-wear is easy enough: layer up and keep warm. August-wear is easy too: dress light and stay cool. Simple.

But what about spring? If you dress too heavily, you'll be comfortable in the morning but sweating up a storm by the end of the day.

And if you dress too lightly, you'll be freezing for a majority of the day, and then receive just a little satisfaction once the weather hits its high for the day.

Aside from this question on how to dress, there's also a particular issue that strikes a chord with me personally.

Pollen.

As a mere English major, I don't exactly know all the science details of flowers or pollen or anything. But I do know that once the weather gets just a little nice, I get red, itchy eyes and a runny nose, and I am burdened with uncontrollable sneezing.

So I'm really not a big fan of winter, spring or whatever rubbish we get handed in-between. I can and will complain about the odd change in seasons up until the day the forecast hits 90.

I will forever stand by the season of August, but until then I – like everyone else – am forced to adapt to the changes as best as possible. And if anyone has any ideas for how to cope with the impossible-to-understand weather or is a science major who understands pollen, you can send your thoughts to papael16@mail.sacred-heart.edu. Thank you in advance for your care in the matter.



HE SAID

ANTHONY..

Once I knew we were going with this topic, I immediately started hearing some birds chirping, felt some good vibes, and decided I was ready for spring. I also tasted a Narragansett Del's Shandy, one of the best nice weather beverages ever, through my sensory memory, so we're already cooking.

Summer is great, but I think there's nothing better than peak spring weather.

In March—okay, the weather's kind of iffy. I haven't been a fan of the weather this March, to be honest. However, we'll definitely be in better shape through April and beyond—that's a given.

I mostly jump to saying how much I like spring because of the optimism that comes with the season. I know that might sound cheesy and soft, but bear with me. What's better than a 70-degree, sunny day spent outside with your friends? Of course that wouldn't be complete without a football to throw around and a barbecue with cheeseburgers on it, but you get the picture.

Once spring is in full effect, the worst-case scenario for weather is a mildly cool, cloudy day. I like rain a lot, so some precipitation is only a bonus for me. A hoodie's all I need.

Another great thing about spring is that it's the advent of the Major League Baseball season.

I'm a lifelong New York Mets fan, and the beginning of each season onsets a brand of nostalgia in a league of its own. Although I ended up falling out of love with little league baseball in favor of basketball and tennis, I still have fond memories of my playing days, but even better memories of going to Mets games with family and friends. So my

baseball connection to spring, I'd have to say, is one of my main reasons for welcoming the season with such open arms.

Speaking of sports, there's another great thing about spring: outdoor activities at its finest.

Part of a perfect spring day would include some pickup basketball, a toss of the football, or at least a stroll through a park or by the water. (I know I brought up football earlier, but it warrants another mention within this category.)

In mentioning walks by the water, I would be remiss to not mention perhaps the most important reason to welcome spring, and that would be beach days. Yes. Beach days are back, and we'll all be better because of it.

The natural world, at its best, is a utopia for reflection, relaxation, and overall good times. If I were to rank the best parts of nature, I'd have to put waterside destinations as number one on that list. I'm talking beaches, ponds, lakes, etc.

When I'm by the water, I feel like I'm in another world, and I think the same rings true for a lot of people. On a recent vacation, I strictly watched the waves and listened to music for about five hours each day, and it was more majestic than watching James Harden play basketball. That's when you know.

Aside from the examples I've provided in these paragraphs, there are scores of other reasons as to why spring is the best season. Some I could go on about, while others make up the kind of beauty that might be so small you'd have to feel it for yourself.

STUDENTS REACT: FRENCH MONTANA CANCELS SPRING CONCERT

"I am livid. Under the circumstances of being a senior, this is not fair. I want my money back, or at least deserve a new artist to come for the sake of the 2018 graduating class."
-Nina Miglio, senior

"How could this possibly happen at 4:30 p.m. the day of? Jerk move on French Montana's part."
-Anthony Fraietta, senior

"If I was French Montana, I'd probably cancel too."
-Devin Stark, senior

"I feel bad for my friends who were planning on going to the concert and then couldn't."
-Marissa Gallante, senior

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ACTIVITIES PRESENTS

**FRENCH
MONTANA**

FRIDAY
MARCH
23

TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 6
MORE INFO COMING SOON



"I was rather sad to hear that the concert was canceled, especially only 3 hours beforehand. It was very funny to see all the comments on Instagram about the cancellation though because at the end of a day it's just a concert!"
-Chris Domville, senior

"I was looking forward to my last spring concert with my friends. When I heard the news only a few hours before the doors opened I was extremely disappointed. I heard rumors he was in Vegas, but whatever the reason for his cancellation was, the student body should be reimbursed with a talent that will actually arrive before graduation. I hope next year will be different."
-Liza Peressini, senior

"I was upset about him canceling, but it saved me from having to make up the words to songs I've never heard."
-Abby Haberle, junior

Perspectives

What Do Students Actually Know About Student Government?

BY GINA D'AMICO
Staff Reporter

How much information do you know about Student Government here at Sacred Heart University?

"I don't know much about our university's main Student Government," said sophomore Nina Catanzaro. "However, I know that each club here on campus has a form of government. For example, the president, vice president and other officers of the pre-law club are very important to all students here interested in law. Just as the president and other officers of Greek Life keep sororities and fraternities running."

President of Student Government, Taryn McCormick, explains how the organization is there to be a voice for the student body.

"Student Government's focus is on the students and students' needs," said McCormick. "We are the liaisons and the voice of the student body and our classes to administrators and faculty."

"We put on events that will bring students together in a fun and creative way, and work to address the needs and wants of students for them to have a positive college experience at SHU," she said.

McCormick detailed some of the events the student government

plans.

"[We facilitate] the President's Gala, SHU Hoops, Pack the Pitt, The Hunger Project, Mr. SHU, Dancing with Heart, The Cake Off, Midnight Volleyball/Dodgeball, Senior Pub Nights, Senior-Week," said McCormick. "Each class [also] hosts community service events for their individual classes."

Senior Hannah Nickerson explains how she was uneducated about how many events Student Government runs.

"I never really knew much about Student Government," said Nickerson. "I was surprised to learn that many of the events I go to are [run] by student government, such as Senior Pub Night."

Sophomore Tara Zanni shared her views on the importance of knowing about Student Government.

"I think that knowing about the Student Government is important because it affects us as students," said Zanni. "They try to make our experience on campus a better one and a lot of people don't realize what is done for us by the Student Government. I think that students should focus more on who is running for their class to see how they are going to help/change SHU."

Although some students may or may not know much information on Student Government here at SHU,

Sophomore Hannah Jones talks about how she appreciates the work done by the organization.

"I am not involved in Student Government, but I actually do know a lot about it," said Jones. "I know that they are heavily involved on campus and host many school-wide events to engage our SHU community. It is an awesome way to be involved in campus and I believe Student Government is one of the main organizations that keeps our campus as united as it is."

McCormick explains how all students are welcome to ask questions and voice their concerns.

"Students are always welcomed and encouraged to come into our office in Hawley Lounge," said McCormick. "We also have suggestion boxes that circulate throughout campus that students can voice their opinions through anonymously. Elections are coming up, so we encourage students to come in and ask about us, and to take out a packet and learn about the different roles of our organization and how they can be a part of making a difference on our campus."

For more information on Student Government, visit their office on the first floor of Hawley Lounge or email them at student-government@sacredheart.edu.

POET'S CORNER

BY Deon Kerr- Graduate Student

YOU CAN'T REALLY SEE ME

If all you see is color, if that's all you care to see

Then I am invisible to you and you can't really see me

If all you hear is a name that sounds different from those that you know

Then you are deaf and you can't fully enjoy this beautiful show

This show called life and all the people that play its different parts

This wonderful journey full of color full of art
If all you see is color, if that all you care to see

Then I am invisible to you and you can't really see me

If all you want to touch is the familiar fabrics of life

Then your sense of feeling is dull and really without any life

If all you want to taste is the berries from just that tree

Then your taste buds are boring and your life is a little empty

If all you see is color, if that's all you care to see

Then I am invisible to you and you can't really see me

But if you choose to look into my soul
Into me as a whole

Into me as person with similar yet different goals

Then you are now seeing me for more than just a color or shade

And you are now seeing what God has made



Do you want to see your poetry in print?

Send your work to

Giovanna Gatto:

gattog@mail.sacredheart.edu
with the piece, the title, and your class year.

Easter Break: Not Long Enough, or Just Fine?

BY MICHAEL NICHOLAS
Staff Reporter

Easter is a holiday of great significance for Christians, one that celebrates and commemorates their belief in the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

As Sacred Heart University is a Catholic institution, Easter is a cherished and particularly meaningful holiday for many of the students and staff. To understand the full meaning of Easter for Christians, one must begin with Lent, which lasts for 40 days, ending three days before Easter.

During Lent, Christians often engage in various practices that they may not engage in year-round. Some examples of that might be fasting or reading the Bible daily. But whatever practice it may be, the intent is to commune with and become closer to God. Easter is then a culmination of this, and its celebration of the resurrection is the peak of this spiritual time.

"As joyous as the day is, Easter and the season of Lent are also a period of great introspection," said Christian writer Anne Lamott in a 2011 interview with NPR.

"Easter, for me, is the time I feel most connected to my family," said junior Andrew Cookes. "I say this as a Christian, that even during Christmas/winter break and summer break, which are both far longer, I do not feel that the time I get with my family is always as meaningful."

When asked about how he felt about the length of Easter break, Cookes expressed a desire for it to be longer.

"In my mind, having more time at Easter break means more quality time, versus a longer summer break, which means a larger quantity of time with family," said Cookes.

Current academic calendars at other traditionally Catholic universities like Notre Dame and Gonzaga reveal that other Easter breaks are mostly four days. Villanova and Boston College both have five days, but no such university seems to have a week-long long Easter break.

In regards to the amount of time we're given off for Easter, junior Alex Kroudis feels it suffices.

"Easter is definitely important to me and I like having an Easter break, but I don't know that a

longer Easter break would help the learning process," said Kroudis.

"I feel like a longer Easter break would end up meaning less time in class for professors to teach the material they need to cover," said Kroudis.

On the idea of making other breaks smaller to allow a longer Easter break, Kroudis felt that wouldn't make much sense.

"You'd still have too many long breaks in the middle," said Kroudis. "The only way to fix that would be taking days out of spring break, which I don't think anyone would agree to. Certainly I wouldn't."

Recent alumnus Neeraj Ramachandran has another take on the idea of a longer Easter holiday.

"I'm not a Christian or religious, but I strongly feel that a Catholic university should put more focus on Easter," said Ramachandran.

"I'm sure a vast number of students and faculty care more about this holiday than any other," said Ramachandran. "That being said, I'm also not sure how Easter break can be longer without cutting into spring break, but maybe Easter should take priority."

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March for Our Lives: The Millennial Revolution Against Gun Violence

BY ALEXANDREA AMAZAN

Everyone has a voice, and everyone needs to be heard.

It was an amazing experience to see the age range of the people that were marching with me in New York City on Saturday, and how clear it was that we all want the same thing: gun reform.

In an ideal world, I would love for everyone to have their guns taken away to avoid this problem, but I understand that that is unrealistic, and it should be obvious to lawmakers and Congress to understand that these are our children.

Children can grow up to be lawmakers and in Congress, but it will never be possible if they are afraid to attend school to get an education.

During the march, I ended up near a man, Neil, that had a large drum with a fist in the middle banging a beat and yelling, "the people are angry, the people are tired, the people are gonna get you fired." There were so many voices chanting in unison and the energy was unmatched.

It ended suddenly because as we kept moving forward you could start to hear music. It was weird that they had speakers lined up along the way playing music as if it was a time to sing. It seemed as if people wanted to say something and the music sort of nulled the importance of what we were marching for.

It was emotional getting prepped for a march like this. I couldn't stop thinking about the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School over 5 years ago, and that those elementary school students will NEVER be able to experience what life can bring.

This is not about walking up to the person getting bullied; those children were not bullying Adam Lanza, this was a mentally ill man who had easy access to a gun and used it as an outlet for his own issues and that is sickening.

Sandy Hook is only 30 minutes away from Sacred Heart University. What if the killer decided to drive a couple of exits down?

I know people roll their eyes when they hear the "what if" scenario, but you cannot anticipate a school shooting, so it's scary to think that any day it could happen to you. That is what gun reform is looking for, a restriction on the age limit, a limit of the types of guns sold and just a simple background check for mentally ill and criminals.

There are so many cases where people are killed by stray bullets in the street so guns as a whole are the problem. I know we cannot solve everything overnight but it is a great place to start because you immediately will see a drop in numbers of deaths due to guns.

March for Our Lives was a different environment than the Women's March. There were so many young children with their parents who understand what is happening to their peers across the country and chant "Never again" and had signs asking "Am I next?"

It's inspirational that at a young age there are kids that are able to be activists, but it's also heartbreaking that that have to be.

The people in D.C. are right. This shouldn't be our battle and we shouldn't have to worry about feeling unsafe at

school. The only thing I should worry about is my homework, but they are making us take to the streets because no one is listening to our needs.

Emma Gonzalez said, "fight for your life before it is someone else's job." Adults in Washington cannot fathom what it's like to lose a classmate to gun violence. It is our experience, it is our job to speak for those who can never take a breath again, and to be the future voice of Americans to show them that we demand change and if Congress can't do anything, we are not afraid to be the ones to do it.

I encourage everyone to be their own activist and to also join SHU Students Against Gun Violence, because if we don't come together to find strategies for change now, there is no way anything good will happen in the future.

We will expand on more than gun violence, but any issue that is up in the air with government that you have ideas for, it is good to have a support system that is passionate about that same things as you.

There is no point in keeping silent because you never know what a single voice can do. That's how any movement begins.

If you are interested, please email me at amazana@mail.sacredheart.edu, because unlike Congress, I would love to hear from my peers.

Alexandrea Amazan, sophomore, is a Political Science major with Sociology and Business minors, and is a Senator for the Class of 2020 in Student Government. She is also a core member of SHU Students Against Gun Violence.



TOP LEFT: SHAWN THEW/EPA
BOTTOM LEFT: DON JUAN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES
TOP RIGHT: ABC NEWS
BOTTOM RIGHT: AP EXCHANGE

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 400 words and should be e-mailed to spectrum@sacredheart.edu. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers voiced in this forum.

Winter is Coming: Engineering Program Hosts the Game of Drones

BY KAYLIN HUEY
Staff Reporter



NEIL GRASSO/SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART'S ENGINEERING PROGRAM HELD A "GAME OF DRONES" EVENT TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL'S STEM CLUB.

On Tuesday, March 20, Sacred Heart University's Engineering Program held an event to raise money for Notre Dame High School's STEM Club.

The event was held in the University Commons (UC), in the main academic building, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Professor Tolga Kaya, Director of Computer Engineering, planned and organized the event to help raise funds for the STEM Club.

"STEM" stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and Notre Dame's STEM club helps to engage students in these subjects. However, the program had little funds, so Professor Tolga Kaya wanted to do something about it.

He came up with the idea to plan three events: a smaller one for their first, a medium one and then a larger one, this being their medium event.

With these events, students are "learning engineer management, production management, how to work in groups, and communication," said Professor Kaya.

The tickets for the event were \$5 and 3-D printed by the Engineering Program. All the funds went to Notre Dame's STEM Club. Professor Kaya says they hopes to raise around \$5,000 for the club.

The Engineering Program worked as a team to set up the tents. These tents were provided by the program, and some were even created and designed by engineering students.

At their first event to raise money for the STEM Club, they had a competition to see who could make the best tented course. These courses were then combined and use for this event, The Game of Drones. Once students learned how to operate and steer the drones, they could test out their skills on the courses.

"It's a lot of fun, I've never flown a drone before. It was difficult getting the hang of it," said Maria Rariti, sophomore Notre Dame Student who arrived at the event after school.

In total, the Engineering Program has between 20 and 25 drones, ranging in sizes. The students were very helpful and explained how to control, fly and steer the drones.

"The person who explained it to me, explained it really well, so that helps," said Rariti.

Many students say the drones are difficult to maneuver, as the controls are very sensitive and make crashing a usual occurrence.

"The smaller the drone, the harder it is to fly," said freshman Stephen Bader.

Students and faculty at the event were taught how to operate a drone by members of the Engineering program in Professor Kaya's Engineering 2 class.

These students are the first to go through Sacred Heart's Engineering Program, and Professor Kaya is working to help the growth of the program. The class now consists of around 20 students.

"They are kick-starting this program, and we are kind of like the guinea pigs," said Stephen Bader. "I'm really starting to enjoy it."

Bader is in Professor Kaya's class and will be doing research with him this summer.

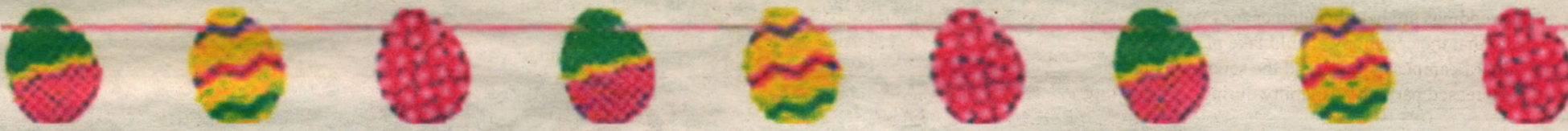
Their largest event will be April 17. Professor Kaya plans to continue these fundraising events for Notre Dame's STEM Club next year and in the future.

The Engineering Program will also be going to the West Maker Fair on April 21. At this fair, students will be able to show off their creations and designs. Professor Kaya gives the students many opportunities to learn, grow and create.

"Professor Kaya gets what engineering is all about and has us working on great projects," said freshman Charlie Escott.

Students are encouraged to support what is both the Engineering Program's last and largest event to help raise funds for the STEM Club on April 14.

"All you have to do is have some passion for it, and you're good," said Stephen Bader.



2018
Summer Session

CATCH UP OR
GET AHEAD
with Summer
@ SHU 2018

Late Spring: Fairfield Campus

CH-320-A	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION
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Late Spring: Online

BI-103-AO	THE HUMAN BODY
CH-130-AO	CHEMISTRY OF NUTRITION
CR-120-AO	CRIME & CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
CH-257-AO	WOMEN & ADVERTISING
DA-100-AO	INTRODUCTION TO DANCE HISTORY
EX-100-AO	INTRO TO EXERCISE SCIENCE
EX-255-AO	NUTRIT. ASPECTS HEALTH & PERFO
EX-299-AO	COACHING METHODS
FLD-125-AO	THE ART OF THINKING
HM-102-AO	HISTORY OF JAZZ
PH-227-AO	HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PHIL
PH-227-CD	HISTORICAL DEV. OF PHILOSOPHY
PO-374-AO	MIDDLE EAST POLITICS
PS-180-AO	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
PS-217-AO	HUMAN SEXUALITY
PS-252-AO	CHILD DEVELOPMENT PSYCHOLOGY
PS-331-AO	BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR
PS-360-AO	ADV. PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH
TR5-265-AO	INTRO TO WORLD RELIGIONS
TR5-290-AO	ST. FRANCES LIFE AND LEGACY

Summer Session I: Fairfield Campus

AC-227-A	FINANCIAL ACCTG & REPORTING
AC-315-A	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING I
BI-107-A	CONCEPTS IN BIOLOGY I
BI-108-A	CONCEPTS IN BIOLOGY II
BI-109-A	INTRO TO MICROBIOLOGY
BI-110-A	INTRO TO MICROBIOLOGY LAB
BI-206-A	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I
BI-208-A	HUMAN ANAT/PHYSIOLOGY LAB I

Summer Session I: Online

AR-101-AO	ART IN THE WESTERN WORLD
CH-120-AO	DRUGS & THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON SOCIETY
CH-130-BO	CHEMISTRY OF NUTRITION
CR-120-AO	INTRO TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CR-257-AO	CRIMINAL COURTS & DISCRETION
CH-102-AO	INTRO TO MEDIA CULTURE
CH-104-AO	FILM & TELEVISION GENRES
DA-310-AO	SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH DANCE
EC-202-AO	PRINCIPLES MICROECONOMICS
EC-373-AO	PUBLIC FINANCE
ENG-201-AO	EXPERIENCING LITERATURE

Summer Session II: Fairfield Campus

AC-222-A	MANAGERIAL ACCTG & CONTROL
AC-352-A	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II
AC-490-A	ACCOUNTING INTERNSHIP

Summer Session II: Online

AN-100-AO	HUMAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY
CH-120-BO	DRUGS & THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON SOCIETY
CH-130-CD	CHEMISTRY OF NUTRITION
CR-205-AO	CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE
CH-101-BO	INTRO TO MEDIA CULTURE
CH-256-AO	MAGAZINES & BODY IMAGE
CS-101-AO	WEB DESIGN & VISUAL TOOLS
EC-305-AO	PRINCIPLES - MACROECONOMICS
EC-302-AO	GLOBAL FINANCIAL MKTS & INSTITUTION
ENG-201-BO	EXPERIENCING LITERATURE

Late Spring: Fairfield Campus

BI-102-BO	WEST CIVIL: SINCE 1500
BI-223-AO	US HISTORY SINCE 1865
HS-350-AO	HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
HS-354-AO	IMPROVING NC QUALITY & SAFETY
IS-272-AO	DYNAMICS OF INFO TECHNOLOGY
MA-133-AO	ELEM STATS WITH BUSINESS APPR
MA-201-AO	PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING
MA-205-AO	ADVERTISING
MGT-202-AO	ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR
MGT-278-AO	PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
MGT-375-AO	OPERATIONS & SUPPLY CHAIN MGT
MGT-401-AO	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT
PH-100-AO	WOMEN IN MUSIC
PH-227-CD	HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PHIL
PH-290-AO	FOUNDATIONAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY
PS-212-AO	ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
PS-241-AO	PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY
PS-273-AO	ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
PS-295-AO	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
SO-260-AO	SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER
TR5-290-CD	SP FOUNDATIONAL TOPICS IN TRS

Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

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Features

Hearing Wedding Bells: Getting Married at SHU

BY LEAH ZINSKY
Staff Reporter



IF YOU ARE A CURRENT STUDENT, ALUMNI OR EMPLOYEE OF SACRED HEART, YOU ARE ABLE TO HAVE YOUR WEDDING AT THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

An interesting fact about being an alumni, student or employee of Sacred Heart University is that you can get married in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on campus. “We want all students to know that all are welcome to get married in the chapel when the time comes,” said Father Michael Ramos, Sacred Heart’s Chaplain. Traditionally, weddings are not held on campus in the winter. However, they are offered on Saturdays and Sundays between June 1 through August 1 annually. Most weddings are held in summer for two reasons, the first being that the ceremony should take place when there is not a lot of campus activity, and the second being that there is increased parking availability during off-peak times

on campus. The chapel at Sacred Heart was designed by a Jesuit artist named Father Marko Ivan Rupnik, who is from Italy. In total, a quarter-million pieces of glass and stone were used to construct the mosaic, and 1,200 square feet total is covered by the main sanctuary. It took Rupnik’s team only 14 days to assemble the mosaics in the Chapel. While there are sentimental reasons to get married in the Chapel, some feel that it may not accommodate the big weddings they hope to have someday. “I wouldn’t get married in the chapel because it’s not big enough. It’s pretty, but I don’t think that it will be large enough to fit all of the guests that I would want to invite,”

said junior Maureen Keary. There were seven weddings held in the chapel this past year. Some weddings are done by the ministry here at Sacred Heart, but most couples like to have their wedding officiated by a priest whom they personally know. Weddings held in the chapel are the same as typical weddings that would be held in a traditional Catholic Church, and they usually can accommodate around 100 people. One of the main reasons that those who have gotten married in the chapel have wanted to do so is because they have had good memories of being Sacred Heart students. Often in these scenarios, additionally, the couple first met on campus. Although the idea of getting married in the chapel has not always been widely known, weddings in the chapel have been offered since it was dedicated in September of 2009. So far, Father Ramos has received a lot of positive feedback from the friends and family that have previously attended wedding ceremonies at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. “My favorite part about being a part of the weddings here is meeting with the couple ahead of time and seeing how they have grown, as well as their understanding of marriage,” says Father Ramos. Couples meet with the ministry here at Sacred Heart about four times before the actual wedding ceremony happens. “I personally am not Catholic so I couldn’t see myself getting married in a Church, but I do think that the architecture of the Chapel is beautiful,” said senior Leah Forbes. A \$1,000 chapel fee is required as well as a civil marriage license which must be obtained from the Town of Fairfield, and a signed wedding agreement. “A wedding is a special moment for the couple and it is a privilege as a Priest to be a part of it,” said Father Ramos. For more information about weddings in the chapel, contact Father Michael Ramos at 203-371-7707 or ramosm3@sacredheart.edu.

EASTER WORD SEARCH

S H G N R X Y X C K R D Z S G H L Y F L
E J J Q M R X N A V C O U B C T I K U O
Q P X I F Q S T N H D N A R R K R Z G B
N I M T P W V L O U D F U W G G P J E J
B A S K E T E C E A B H W B S G A Q L A
J N D G A M O X Y T C W Q U P F C N M R
B A G C U L Q O Y Z S J V A O N H F U T
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L I J T S W W P O A W J P U J Q C S E D
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V X E B N T X Z H D T E A Z N C P I K W
S J H L V O M K P R S S B X O K H M K N
B P S I I J Z D B Y A U L S B F X I B R
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- APRIL
- BASKET
- BEANS
- BUNNY
- CANDY
- CHICKS
- CHOCOLATE
- CHURCH
- DUCK
- EASTER
- EGGS
- FLOWERS
- JELLY
- JESUS
- PASTELS
- PRAYER
- SPRING
- SUNDAY

Arts & Entertainment



ACTRESS CYNTHIA NIXON, KNOWN FOR HER ROLE AS MIRANDA HOBBS ON "SEX AND THE CITY," ACCOUNDED HER PLANS TO RUN FOR NEW YORK GOVERNOR.

"Sex and the City" Star Runs for New York Governor

BY STEPHANIE DOHENY
Staff Reporter

Actress Cynthia Nixon, popularly known for her role as Miranda Hobbes on HBO's series, "Sex and the City," announced that she is running for New York governor.

"In terms of an actor or actress running for a political position, whether it's specifically governor or president of the United States, we certainly have a history of that happening," said Dr. Lori Bindig, Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Media Arts.

Nixon is a native New Yorker, where she was born and raised, and currently lives in the city with her family.

"I'm running for governor because I love this state. New York is the only place I've ever lived, and I wouldn't have it any other way," said Nixon on her campaign website. "But I know that we can do better. We need a New York that works for all of us – A New York for the many, not just the few."

Nixon announced on twitter that she will run against the current governor, Andrew Cuomo in New York's Democratic primary in September.

"When I was first told that an actress from "Sex and the City" was running

for governor of New York, I have to admit that I wasn't surprised," said junior Kirsten J. Cunha. "After witnessing the Trump campaign sweep American media, I found that it inspired many Hollywood star lights to use their public platforms to speak up for political reform."

On "Sex and the City," Nixon played Miranda, a head-strong Harvard law graduate, who was very anti-men and anti-relationship. She was very different from the other female characters, but kept the main character, Carrie, grounded.

"I think in today's environment, people want to be a Miranda," said Dr. Bindig. "I think that there is something about women who can achieve and have a degree of success and make it and deal with the challenges. I think it would be very meaningful and resonate with a lot of people."

Many news outlets said that by Nixon playing Miranda, it possibly helped her prepare for what is to come during this race.

"The inspiration I got from her is now shifting from receiving it from her character, to seeing her in action," said sophomore Isabel Libby. "I definitely feel like parts of the media will bash her for it because 'Sex

and the City' was a sexually explicit show. However, women who are fans of the show will support her fully, since she has been an activist for women's rights."

Nixon is also known for her work as being an activist for many different causes; including, but not limited to: breast cancer awareness, women's rights, and LGBTQ+ rights. Nixon openly identifies as a bi-sexual woman, with many causes being close to her heart.

"I believe that her nomination as a candidate is a big step for women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights," said Cunha. "While I may not agree with her campaign strategy, to be inducted as the state's first openly gay governor, Nixon could serve as a liaison for those who feel as though their voices are small in a large world."

Dr. Bindig hopes that Sacred Heart students, regardless of their political leanings, investigate the candidates.

"[I hope] that you look at multiple sources and make sure that they are vetted sources and question the claims that the candidates make and dig a little deeper," said Dr. Bindig.

"Love, Simon"

A Review of the Latest Romantic Comedy-Drama Film

BY CLAIRE CONLAN
Staff Reporter

"You get to exhale now, Simon. You get to be more you than you have been in a very long time. You deserve everything you want," said Jennifer Garner as Emily in "Love, Simon."

On Friday, March 16, "Love, Simon" hit not only the theaters, but everyone's hearts.

Directed by Greg Berlanti, who also directs The CW's television series, "Riverdale," "Love, Simon" is a hilarious, shocking, heartwarming, coming out love story. The screenplay was written by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger, who are also writers for NBC's television series, "This Is Us."

"This film treats 17-year-old Simon Spier's quest for love and self-acceptance with the tender, timeless, Hollywood touch of John Hughes," said Entertainment Writer for the Associated Press, Sandy Cohen, in his review of the film. "It's a classic story of a first crush made groundbreaking by centering on a closeted gay kid."

The film stars Nick Robinson, Garner, Josh Duhamel and Katherine Langford.

Simon Spier, played Rob-

inson, is a 17-year-old boy who lives a pretty perfect life. However, he has one huge secret that he is keeping in... he is gay.

Simon has a core group of friends who do normal high school things: they go to school, parties, and use social media a little too much than they should.

On their school's blog page there was an anonymous boy who announced that he is gay. Simon felt this automatic connection to this character, Blue, because he would be able to relate to how he is feeling. Simon creates this relationship over email with Blue and they take on the adventures of coming out to the world together.

"This is a feel good movie. It leaves your jaw dropping, laughing until your stomach hurts, and crying with many emotions," said junior Katherine Li. "I think I could watch this film 100 times and would never get sick of it."

The scenes with Simon coming out to friends and family are extremely raw. You could feel all of the audience's emotions through each of these scenes. They did not show an unrealistic way of coming out to fami-

ly and friends.

Although the film had many sentimental scenes, there were also hilarious moments.

"It was hilarious and heartwarming, with an unexpected ending," said Li.

On its opening weekend, "Love, Simon" had an average gross income of 12 million. It received an 8.1 out of 10 on IMDb and a 91% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

This film will be a push for everyone who wants to come out to the people they love to show them that it will not be easy, but it will be worth it in the end.

"Hopefully this will be a new start to more love stories like this. It should not all be picture perfect love stories about a boy and a girl. That is just not the world we live in," said junior Cathleen Stanley. "I think that's why I liked this movie so much because it did not seem unrealistic."

I cannot wait to see more films that will be developed just like "Love, Simon." If you think everyone deserves their ultimate love story and love a good comedy, then this film is for you.



LOVE, SIMON IS A FUNNY AND HEARTFELT COMING-OF-AGE STORY ABOUT THE THRILLING RIDE OF FINDING YOURSELF AND FALLING IN LOVE.

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Arts & Entertainment

Kappa Delta's ShamROCK the Runway In Honor of Caitlin Nelson

BY JULIA LEONARD
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, March 25 in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, Kappa Delta presented their annual philanthropy event, Caitlin's ShamROCK the Runway.

The event raises money for the sorority's philanthropy, Child Abuse America, and the Saint Joseph Parenting Center (SJPC). Kappa Delta raised over \$29,000 dollars for these organizations on the night of the event.

"Caitlin's ShamROCK the Runway is something I hold close to my heart," said senior Mary Guardino. "[We are] not only honoring our sister Caitlin Nelson and the amazing work she did, but also supporting Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA). PCAA is an organization dedicated to teaching parents how to properly treat their children to give them the best lives possible."

For many members of Kappa Delta, they feel that they have an amazing bond and such a strong connection to the event, their philanthropy, and remembrance of their angels, Nelson and Kaitlyn Doorhy.

"ShamROCK is even more special because everyone is working together more than ever to put on a great show, not only for everyone who comes to watch it, but also for our angels looking down on us," said

junior Ariana Colasuonno.

Staff Reporter for the Spectrum and Kappa Delta member, junior Marisa Tache, hosted the event with Pi Kappa Pi member, Tim Lowell.

Nelson's older sister, Annie, started off the event by talking about her sister's kind hearted soul and legacy.

Annie also spoke about the kindness cards that everyone who attended the event received. The card has her sister's message and encourages the holder to "pay it forward" and spread kindness.

Founder and Executive Director of SJPC, Mary Louise "Measi" O'Rourke, also talked at the event about how SJPC strengthens parents who need parenting lessons and about what they are seeing with child abuse in the news.

The support that the event receives means so much to the members of Kappa Delta.

"It's amazing to me how much love and support we have received to raise over \$29,000 in just a few weeks," said Guardino. "Working with children has always been my dream and by being a part of Kappa Delta sorority, I've learned so much about PCAA. I know I chose the right path."

Many different members from the Sacred Heart

community walked in the show. Local clothing businesses lent outfits for the student "models" to wear and showcase. Outfits that were showcased included casual wear, swimwear and evening wear.

The show also included a variety of performances.

Members of Iota Phi Theta danced, Omega Pi Kappa members performed a step routine, junior Henley Solomon and freshman Charlie Fusari from Kappa Sigma performed John Legend's "Love Me Now," and members of Kappa Delta sang songs like Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love," and Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and Sigala and Ella Eyre's "Come Here for Love."

In addition to the fashion showcase and live performances, Kappa Sigma member Joe Nobile was crowned Mr. Shamrock.

"ShamROCK has always meant so much to me and the rest of my sorority because it embodies everything we stand for. We get to promote confidence while raising money for our philanthropy in a fun way," said Colasuonno. "Shamrock meant so much to Caitlin, especially, and is a time where you can truly sense her presence [is] still with us and it is really amazing."



NORANOEL NOLAN/SPECTRUM

THE SACRED HEART CHORAL PROGRAM PERFORMED THEIR ANNUAL CONCERT, "CHORAL MASTERWORKS" IN THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ALL SEVEN OF THE SCHOOL'S CHOIRS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONCERT.

Sacred Heart Choral Program Comes Together for "Choral Masterworks"

BY ABIGAIL FRISOLI
Staff Reporter

For many audience members who attended "Choral Masterworks" on Saturday, March 24, they were able to relate to Pioneer Choir's performance of Moses Hogan's "Music Down in My Soul."

"Choral Masterworks" is an annual concert held by the Sacred Heart University Choral Program. This concert is different from their others because the selected repertoire is pulled from various cultures and languages from different periods of history.

"It is a unique opportunity for students and the choral faculty to focus on more challenging and gratifying material than some of our other concerts that focus more on pop music," said Assistant Director of Choral Programs Thomas Cuffari. "The repertoire for this concert is usually not initially embraced by everyone in the choir, as it isn't accessible at first. But after a lot of studying and rehearsing the music, many members of our choir come to enjoy the experience of preparing the 'Masterworks' concert, most of all."

All seven of Sacred Heart's choirs participate in this concert: Pioneer, SHU L.O.V.E., SHUpermen, Concert Choir, Blended

Hearts, 4 Heart Harmony, and Liturgical Choir.

"Choral Masterworks" took place in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit instead of the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, which is the traditional concert venue.

"The acoustics are much better in the chapel for singing, but it is also a much more intimate experience," said Choir President, junior Sarah Riccio, who is a member of SHU L.O.V.E. and Pioneer Choir. "You can see your audience, the size of the actual place is smaller, and this causes much more of a give and take between the audience and the performers."

Other choir members also find the Chapel of the Holy Spirit less intimidating.

"Performing in the Edgerton, it feels like there is a little bit more pressure because of the bigger space and typically bigger audience. The lights, the echo of voice, and not being able to see the audience—it can be scary not knowing," said senior CJ Cofrancesco, who is a member of 4 Heart Harmony and Concert Choir.

Although there were a few snow days, it did not affect the choir's readiness.

"Snow days happen every year from January until March when we have

our 'Masterworks' concert. We take this into account when we decide how many rehearsals are planned in order to be ready to perform," said Cuffari.

There are ways for students to practice their parts, even when there is not rehearsal. Sheet music and rehearsal audio tracks are uploaded to Blackboard so that it is easy for the singers to rehearse on their own time.

"I like being challenged vocally and I like to be exposed to new music that isn't what you just hear on the radio," said Riccio. "Music that we sing at this concert has such beautiful moments where there is a suspension and it just rings. Those small moments are really what make singing amazing—being able to have each part come together on a chord and create an emotional moment."

Many audience members enjoyed the concert and look forward to future performances.

"I was impressed by the collective ability to hold key, and all-in-all it was a very good performance," said sophomore Harrison Corr. "I'm excited to see what else the choir has to offer in the future."



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KAPPA DELTA PRESENTED THEIR ANNUAL CAITLIN'S SHAMROCK THE RUNWAY EVENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHILD ABUSE AMERICA AND THE SAINT JOSEPH PARENTING CENTER. THEY NOT ONLY RAISED \$29,000 FOR THESE ORGANIZATIONS, BUT HONORED THEIR SISTER CAITLIN NELSON.

Sports

Rowing Team Set to Host two Spring Regattas

BY JOHN KAYWOOD
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University's women's rowing team is winding down its calendar season, finishing off with two home regattas for this spring semester.

Seniors Anna Sufczynski, Jennifer Hagedorn, and Sara Totura are leading the Pioneers into this home stretch while reflecting on their careers and the accomplishments they've had during their time at Sacred Heart.

"With each incoming class we grow stronger, each girl brings something new to the team," said Totura. "Our coaches really push us to work harder every day and try to get us to meet each goal whether it's small or big, which helps us keep focus."

Hagedorn, who transferred from the University of Toledo, had a much different path to Sacred Heart than most of her teammates.

Growing up in Ohio, where rowing was not priority, she has had to overcome many obstacles. Hagedorn did not have an easy journey to becoming a college rower.

"My high school coach told me that if I were to row collegiately it would only be club and maybe I'd have a shot on a Division III team. He just thought I didn't have it in me," said

Hagedorn. "At my first 2K rowing test here I beat my personal record and from there Coach Mantescu has had me working my hardest everyday"

Anna Sufczynski, who's been on the team for four years can attest to the progress that has been seen in both the girls rowing abilities, and coaching style as well.

"Thinking back to our freshman year workouts, the intensity and length of them definitely far passed what we could've done," said Sufczynski. "Some of our warm-ups now are the same lengths as some of the workouts when I first joined the team."

Nicoleta Mantescu, who's entering her sixth season as the women's rowing team coach, has relied on the veteran leadership from Sufczynski, Totura and Hagedorn and the valued asset of experience they bring to the table.

"They have grown so much over the past four years that now they can be the role models," said Mantescu. "Younger girls are seeing their work ethic and motivation. They are the first girls in and the last girls out, that has been vital."

The team is looking forward to their last four

regattas prior to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championships (MAAC). Two of which will be at their home course in Shelton, Conn. at Beacon Point Marina.

Despite being a home race, there is no home field advantage, unlike many other sports.

"With rowing, you really never know what you're going to get, when it comes to the water and weather conditions," said Sufczynski. "We know our course better which is helpful, but weather really plays the main role in almost all race."

Rain or shine, Saturday, April 21 will be a special regatta. The SHU Invitational will feature their in-state rival Fairfield University. It is also their Senior Day, which is sure to provide a mix of emotion and intensity.

"Senior Day will probably be pretty sad. I know I'll probably get upset, just because of all the memories and experiences the past four years," said Sufczynski.

It's not all tears though; the team will be celebrating with a craft beer night right after the SHU Invitational. Students that are of age can buy tickets to help support the team.

Club Baseball Prepares for Second Half of Season

Upcoming Games

April 21 vs. Boston College
Home

April 21 vs. Boston College
Home

April 22 vs. Boston College
Home



BY DOMINIC CAPORALE
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart Pioneers club baseball team will start their spring season with a three-game series at home against Northeastern University on March 24-25.

The Pioneers finished the first half of their season, which is played from mid-October until mid-November, with a 1-6 record. The team is sure that is not going to define them this spring.

"We struggled a little bit in the fall, but we're a young team. We were scrambling to find a freshman to take a senior's spot," said senior PJ Ciocca.

The Pioneers open next weekend and they are doing everything they can to make the best of what they have. As the seniors prepare to play their last competitive games of baseball, they are willing to do whatever it takes to have the best time they can.

"It's a lot of fun being a senior and all, and I just want to help get the name for club baseball out there. It needs to be known," said senior Mike Lotito.

With just a few weeks left in their season, the Pioneers will play a three-game set against Northeastern on March 23-24. Then move

on to play a makeup game against University of Massachusetts on April 1.

The Pioneers are looking to make themselves known on campus, and they want it all to start on the diamond.

"We definitely have some goals set," said Ciocca. "We need to stay more engaged, and be more confident, that's how we were going to snag some wins."

Lessons learned on the playing field apply to more than just sports. The work ethic and determination that playing competitive sports instills in athletes goes beyond the field.

"I'm definitely going to use what I learned in that diamond in the classroom and life," said Ciocca.

For the seniors that are left, they are realizing that they just have a few short weeks of baseball left and they are wishing there was more time.

"It's been a passion of mine since I was a kid," said Lotito. "It's a brotherhood I'm going to miss. I can't believe it's coming to an end."

With the Pioneers carrying a roster of 30 athletes, they look to improve each season. With five graduating seniors this year, they look

for the younger athletes to step up and fill those positions.

"Being a senior and all of us leaving, I feel like we have to get these younger guys ready" said Lotito.

The seniors that are leaving hold positions in the outfield, at first and third base, and catcher. Finding athletes to take over those positions and prepare for the next season is crucial at this point in the year.

Along with staying focused, the biggest area the Pioneers think they need to improve is their pitching. There are a few underclassmen currently pitching but they are looking for someone to step up and take the mound consistently.

"We just want to help by keep building the team chemistry, something the younger guys can carry on" said Ciocca.

With the spring season quickly approaching, the Pioneers look to get back on track and improve to where they want to be.

The Pioneers will end their spring season with a three-game home series against Boston College on April 21-22.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 WILL BE A SPECIAL REGATTA. THE SHU INVITATIONAL WILL FEATURE THEIR IN-STATE RIVAL FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY AND IT IS ALSO THEIR SENIOR DAY.



Sports

Equestrian Team Prepares for Final Competitions

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Staff Reporter



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

THE WOMEN'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM IS FINISHING UP THEIR 2017-2018 SEASON WITH A FEW MORE EVENTS THEY HOPE TO DO WELL AT.

The Sacred Heart University women's equestrian team is wrapping up their 2017-2018 season with still many goals in mind. On March 17 the Pioneers sent seven girls to the Western Semifinals at Black Hawk College in Galva, Illinois.

The pioneers sent one of their riders into the Western Finals which was awesome since they all started off riding English hunt seat riding. Senior Devon Conley was one of the riders lucky enough to attend the Western Semifinals.

"It was a really cool experience, it was cool to go to Illinois and Chicago and travel with

the team, you kinda get closer with them," said Conley.

With the season coming to a close the team still has a few events that they have their sights set on. Regionals are on March 31 at Connecticut College followed by team competition zones in Massachusetts on April 7. The Intercollegiate Horse Show Nationals will take place May 3-6 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA.

Senior Cecelia Mathon is looking forward to the upcoming competitions.

"For the rest of the season the team really hopes to qualify for nationals," said Mathon.

The training that the team goes through is not like training for many other sports. Although they have lift three times a week, a lot of their training is to improve muscle memory for when they are riding. Muscle memory helps to ensure the athletes compete at a high standard during the competition.

Senior Cassandra Bayles tries her best outside of scheduled training to stay in shape.

"I go to the gym five times a week, so I try to keep my physique up. At lessons I'm zoned in, I try to not think about anything else," said Bayles.

Sacred Heart does not have a facility for the equestrian team forcing them to train off campus, which can make it difficult sometimes to keep up with everything.

"We practice about three times a week on our horses in South Harriot, CT. The drive to our farm is pretty far, but the farm is also the best place to practice at," said Mathon.

The team is a very close knit, even though equestrian is an individual sport they are all competing for the overall success of the team.

Mathon reflected on her four years at Sacred Heart along with her four years on the team.

"They were the best four years of my life. This team gave me so much, so many memories," said Mathon.

Conley described the importance of the equestrian team and teammates on her college experience and her time here at Sacred Heart.

"This year especially, everyone is super close and I know that I can go to them for anything that I need. I can always call them up and ask them for any favors," said Conley.

Mathon, Bayles, and Conley are all seniors and with graduation quickly approaching, their future occupations and post-graduation plans are on their minds. Mathon a nursing major, Bayles a marketing major, and Conley a business major, all hope to find jobs in those fields post-graduation however, they will not forget their time here at Sacred Heart.

"I think I would have completely different experience at college if I wasn't on the team," said Conley.

Kickline Becomes a Club Sport

BY NICOLE BOTT
Staff Reporter

Kickline encompasses dancing with pom-poms and high kicks that requires synchronization, precision, and teamwork. People usually relate it to the Radio City Rockettes for reference.

These routines are carefully thought out and put on a great show. The kickline team has recently left the dance program and is now a club sport. They bring complex and fresh routines to games and competitions.

"No matter how many people are seeing the routine, I always want it to be great and entertaining for the audience, yet challenging for the team," said senior captain Lauren Garizio. "I am very excited for more students on campus to see what our team does and for us to share what we love to do."

Becoming a club sport has been a transition for the team.

"We now have access to the athletic trainers, which can be beneficial since kickline can be demanding on the body," said sophomore Hannah Wilson.

Kickline also introduced a new coach in the fall, Samentha Samuel. Samuel is from Long Island and commutes to Sacred Heart to coach the team.

"I have been a kickline coach for 14 years. I started when I was 19 years old as an assistant coach at Garden City High school in New York," said Samuel. "I was the coach of Lauren Garizio's high school team. She was the one coordinating and choreographing for kickline while it was in the dance program."

As a club sport there are many opportunities for kickline to expand their program. They will have more performances in the years to come.

"In the past, kickline performed at competitions. As a club sport we will now be performing at football and basketball halftimes as well as campus events and local and statewide competitions," said Garizio.

Kickline is a group effort sport because if one person falls out of line then the whole routine can be messed up.

"I joined freshmen year while it was in the dance program and it was the dance I had been assigned to. Since then I have loved it and made great friendships because of it. I like the feeling of being part of a team. Kickline is a team effort, and you grow as a team. If one person doesn't succeed the whole team doesn't," said senior Elizabeth Laporta.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN GARIZIO

THE KICKLINE TEAM HAS RECENTLY BECOME A CLUB SPORT, ALLOWING THEM TO PERFORM AT SPORTS EVENTS AS WELL AS DANCE COMPETITIONS.



Sports



A FOUR-RUN SECOND INNING AND A 15-STRIKEOUT PERFORMANCE BY EMILY OROSCO (PICTURED) GAVE THE PIONEERS (15-9) THE 4-1 WIN IN GAME TWO AGAINST UMASS LOWELL ON MARCH 24. SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS